

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/595,904
AMENDMENT

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REMARKS

New claim 29 has been added to the application. New claim 29 corresponds to original claim 1 of the international application, No. PCT/JP2004/17055, of which the present application is the national stage in the United States, except that the phrase "or an elapsed time (Ti, Tt) of the processed information" has been deleted.

New claim 29 is believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hagenbuch, U.S. Patent No. 5,754,965, and Mieczkowski et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,763,764 ("Mieczkowski"), cited in the Final Office Action dated December 18, 2009.

The fuel-saving management system of the present invention as recited in claim 28 comprises information detection means, information-processing means, and information storage means. The information-processing means processes information detected by the information detection means and generates a warning when the processed information satisfies a required warning condition.

In the fuel-saving management system of the present invention, as defined in claim 29, when a time during which processed information is maintained to satisfy required warning conditions exceeds a previously set time, the information-processing means

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stores the occurrence of the overtime event into the information storage means. In this manner, applicants' claimed system provides the advantage of enabling a driver to correct momentary warnings in time to have a minimal effect on vehicle efficiency (i.e., prior to the generation of an overtime event) and thereby avoid the "mental burden" of attempting to drive in such a manner as to generate no warnings.

Hagenbuch does not disclose each of these elements of the fuel-saving management system of the present invention.

Although Hagenbuch discloses an apparatus for providing an operator with a real-time indicator of the efficiency of a vehicle, the apparatus of Hagenbuch does not include an information-processing means that is configured to judge that a time during which the warning is generated exceeds a predetermined overlimit time. I.e., Hagenbuch nowhere discloses or otherwise suggests detection and recording of an overtime event that is determined only when the time of a generated warning exceeds a predetermined time. Hagenbuch teaches that a chronology of vital signs can be recorded at a predetermined interval (see, e.g., Col. 8, lines 3-30; and Col. 12, lines 7-12), but this is not a disclosure or suggestion of a system where, when a time during which the processed information is maintained to satisfy the required warning

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conditions exceeds a previously set time, the information-processing means stores the occurrence of the overtime event into the information storage means.

The Office asserts in the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections in the Final Office Action that the fuel-saving management system of Hagenbuch includes an information-processing device that generates a warning when processed information satisfies required warning conditions; and an information storage device storing the processed information; and "wherein, when a time during which the processed information is maintained to satisfy the required warning conditions or an elapsed time of the processed information exceeds a previously set time, the information-processing device stores the occurrence of the overtime event into the information storage device," (Final Office Action, page 5, lines 8-12; and page 7, second paragraph, lines 8-12).

However, the Office does not show or explain where such limitation is disclosed in Hagenbuch and does not otherwise support its position. Therefore, the rejections in the Final Action cannot stand.

Mieczkowski is not cited as teaching, and does not teach, the above-noted limitation.

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An allowance of the claims remaining in the application is believed to be in order and is respectfully solicited.

In the event that any fees are required in connection with this paper, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,
KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK



Ronald J. Kubovcik
Reg. No. 25,401

Atty. Case No. HGM-001
Suite 1105
1215 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Tel: (703) 412-9494
Fax: (703) 412-9345
RJK/ff